

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (currently amended) A method of collecting a specimen with a swab and depositing a specimen into a collection device comprising:

- (a) providing a swab having a swab tip which is releasably attached to one end of ~~an~~ a unitary elongate handle;
- (b) providing a sleeve which is slidable along said handle;
- (c) collecting a specimen on said swab tip;
- (d) placing said swab such that said swab tip is adjacent to an opening in a collection device; and
- (e) urging said sleeve along said handle and against said swab tip to ~~displace~~ remove said swab tip completely from said handle ~~and~~ allowing said swab tip to drop into said collection device without any of said handle being attached.